

involvement in the prosecution of bias-motivated crimes; and failed to give law enforcement the tools it needs to ensure that every American can live in an environment free of terror.

And what would Dr. King say of our efforts to make it possible that every American child attend college and receive the benefits that flow from a college education? Four decades after Ole Miss and the University of Alabama admitted their first minority students, some are arguing that universities cannot seek to promote a diverse campus atmosphere by considering race, among many other factors, in assembling its student body. I was disappointed when the President announced to the nation that he would authorize the U.S. Government to oppose the undergraduate and law school admissions policies of the University of Michigan. The administration had an opportunity to send a powerful message to the Nation, namely that, partisan politics aside, the attainment of diverse student bodies at America's universities is in our greatest national interest. I disagree with his decision.

The President's reason for opposing the Michigan admissions system was because it mandated racial quotas. It does not. As the university's president, Mary Sue Coleman, noted in her response to President Bush's misstatement, the university's admissions system "is a complex process that takes many factors into account and considers the entire background of each applicant. . . . We do not have, and never had, quotas or numerical targets in either the undergraduate or Law School admissions programs. Academic qualifications are the overwhelming consideration for admission to both programs."

No, this debate is not about quotas. Rather, it is about educators' judgments about how best to teach and stimulate the curiosity of America's college students. It is about how to nurture critical thinking, how to ignite students' intellectual imagination. I have said it many times before, but now I have the social science data to back it up: the greatest benefactor of a diverse student community is not the individual student who gets some plus-factor on his admissions application; it is the wider college community that gains immensely from learning in an environment with different types of people, with different types of life experiences. And anyone who would suggest that an individual's race does not contribute to one's life experience would be sadly mistaken, because, even in the 21st century, diversity matters.

This debate is about how to make America's promise real for all her children. Tellingly, when asked about the lawsuits against the University of Michigan, Dr. King's widow, Coretta Scott King, noted quite poignantly that affirmative action is "an important part toward eliminating discrimination." She is right. To the extent that Whites and minorities sometimes

experience life differently, in other words, to the extent that there are Black-White gaps in poverty rates, in income levels, in access to quality health care, in life expectancy, in rates of imprisonment, in any number of life indicators, those gaps narrow considerably when minorities have increased and equal access to educational opportunities.

Quite frankly, the road that led me from the small town of Scranton, PA, to the hamlet of Claymont, DE, and eventually to the hallowed Halls of the Senate, while rocky and sometimes uncertain, was always paved with possibility. The challenge, my friends, is to make sure every child, no matter their race or ethnicity, no matter their gender, no matter their families' socioeconomic status, has a chance to travel a road, not necessarily free of obstacles, but certainly full of possibility. We must be vigilant in ensuring that the road for all our citizens is paved with possibility.

In 1957, when Dr. King and a group of others formed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, they chose as their motto: "To save the soul of America." Our charge today is no less urgent. We have to make America what it ought to be. And to do that, we start where our Founders started, by awakening in our hearts that spirit of revolution, of freedom, of democracy out of which America was born, by remembering that America's promise is only as strong and as real to you as it is to all. Dr. King said it best: "Injustice anywhere is a threat everywhere. . . . Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." My friends, "either we go up together or we go down together."

The questions are really quite simple. I stand with Dr. King's vision, which calls on us today to make sure that we do all we can to close the gaps in education and economic prosperity.

When Dr. King died that dark day in 1968, honestly a part of me and a part of every American died, too. Riots erupted in 125 cities around the country, including in my home State of Delaware, where the National Guard occupied Wilmington for 10 months, reportedly the longest occupation in the country. But out of that horror and the anguish that followed, a clarion call was heard. We emerged from the riots a stronger and better nation, and with a stronger faith in what is good and right about America.

To my beloved countrymen, I say that, in this season marking Dr. King's birth, we must remember his legacy. We must continue to raise our voices, continue to speak for the least among us, continue to fight for what is good and right about America.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. In the last Congress

Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred August 27, 2000 in Normal, IL. Christopher Weninger, an Illinois State University student, was assaulted while walking home from a party. Three men approached Weninger on the street and asked him for a cigarette. As Weninger handed one man a cigarette, another man punched him in the face and called him "queer." The victim suffered a broken nose and eye socket.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

YOUTH PROGRAM IS BEST REVENGE AGAINST RISING TIDE OF GUN DEATHS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I want to bring an inspiring young woman from my home State of Michigan to the attention of my colleagues. Her name is Lakeshia Gallman. Lakeshia graduated from Martin Luther King High School in 2002 and currently attends Wayne State University.

As many of my colleagues know, the Detroit area has been plagued by gun-related deaths of children over the last year. Lakeshia Gallman is no stranger to the terrible effects of this rising tide of gun violence on families and communities. She lost her 17-year-old cousin in a senseless act of gun violence 4 years ago. Since that incident, Lakeshia's commitment to reducing the occurrence of gun violence in Detroit has been exemplary. Lakeshia is active in the Detroit Neighborhood Service Organization's Youth Initiative Project, an organization dedicated to drug prevention and stopping youth violence. She has been a champion of gun safety initiatives in Detroit for over 3½ years. Over the last year, Lakeshia has set up town hall meetings, and met with local and national elected officials, including me. She also helped distribute over 2,000 gun locks and has educated people about the harsh realities of gun violence. Lakeshia recently authored a column on the effects of gun violence in the Detroit Free Press.

Like many Americans, Lakeshia Gallman understands that the black market and gun traffickers are two of the primary ways criminals get their hands on guns. She also knows that easy access to guns in homes are a primary method by which kids injure or kill other kids. We can eliminate easy access to guns by criminals by closing the gun show loophole. And we can prevent kids from gaining access to guns